

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 15936 281826Z
ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T CAIRO 15936

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV EG ISUS
SUBJECT: PROPOSED LONDON FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

REF: STATE 162963

1. MET WITH FONMIN KAMEL (AND AHMED MAHER) THIS AFTER-
NOON TO INFORM GOE THAT, DESPITE SOME MISGIVINGS, WE
ARE WILLING GO ALONG WITH REVISED SCENARIO PROPOSED BY
EGYPTIANS. TO BE SURE THERE NO MISUNDERSTANDING, I
WENT THROUGH SEQUENCE OF STEPS. ALSO INDICATED SECRETARY
STILL PREFERS HAVE TALKS IN LONDON. EXACT DATE OF
MEETING WILL HAVE TO BE DETERMINED LATER. GAVE KAMEL
COPY OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S JUNE 26 PRESS CONFERENCE
REMARKS AND INFORMED HIM THESE WILL BE BASIS OUR RE-
SPONSES TO ANY FURTHER PRESS QUERIES.

2. KAMEL WAS PLEASED THAT WE HAVE ACCEPTED REVISED
SCENARIO. HE INDICATED GOE WILL ON JULY 5, I.E.,
IMMEDIATELY AFTER VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT, LET
IT BE KNOWN THAT IT HAS CONVEYED EGYPTIAN COUNTER-
PROPOSAL TO USG FOR TRANSMISSION TO ISRAELIS. HE ALSO
INDICATED THAT, IN VIEW OF SECRETARY'S PREFERENCE, HE
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IS AGREEABLE THAT TALKS BE HELD IN LONDON. HE ASKED
WHERE IN LONDON TALKS WILL BE HELD?

3. I THEN MADE ANOTHER STRONG PITCH TO KAMEL THAT HE
SHOULD APPROACH LONDON MEETING, AT SUCH TIME AS IT IS
HELD, IN A POSITIVE SPIRIT. MEETING OFFERS OPPORTUNITY
TO PROBE CLARIFICATION OF ISRAELI POSITIONS AND I RE-

CALLED FOR UPTEENTH TIME THE CONCEPT OF SEARCHING QUESTIONS THAT SADAT INDICATED TO ME AT MIT ABUL KUM SHOULD BE PREPARED BY MUBARAK, KAMEL AND SALEM FOR USE WITH ISRAELIS. SUCH POSITIVE PROBING, I POINTED OUT, WILL FACILITATE SUBSEQUENT PHASES OF NEGOTIATING PROCESS. KAMEL SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO APPROACH MEETING WITH A POSITIVE SPIRIT, BUT NOTED IT TAKES TWO TO DO A TANGO. HE HAD SEEN NOTHING RECENTLY THAT WOULD SUGGEST ISRAELIS ARE PREPARED MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE MEETING. ON THE MATTER OF QUESTIONS, THE ONLY ONE HE SAW HIMSELF ASKING IS "ARE YOU PREPARED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND WHEN?" AT MY REQUEST, HE AGREED TO ASK SADAT WHAT OTHER QUESTION THE PRESIDENT MIGHT HAVE HAD IN MIND DURING OUR CONVERSATION. BUT HE REALLY DID NOT SEE HOW THERE WILL BE MUCH TO TALK ABOUT.

4. KAMEL AGAIN SAID THAT GOE IS GOING INTO THIS EXERCISE SOLELY TO ACCOMMODATE PRESIDENT CARTER AND TO ENABLE US TO POSITION OURSELVES TO PUT FORWARD OUR SUGGESTIONS. GOE, HE EMPHASIZED, HAS PLACED ALL OF ITS CONFIDENCE IN USG. IT HAS AGREED TO OUR PROPOSALS DESPITE RISKS THEY ENTAIL FOR GOE IN ARAB, AFRICAN AND NONALIGNED WORLDS. HIS GREAT FEAR IS THAT MEETING MAY END UP ENABLING ISRAELIS TO DRAG OUT STILL FURTHER THE INCONCLUSIVE TALKS BY CONTENDING THAT FURTHER
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MEETINGS ARE NECESSARY. THE PEACE PROCESS HAS ALREADY BEEN DRAGGED OUT TOO LONG, KAMEL ASSERTED, AND SOME EARLY MOVEMENT IS NECESSARY IF SADAT IS TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS. HE HOPED THAT USG APPRECIATES DIFFICULT SITUATION IN WHICH SADAT AND GOE WILL FIND THEMSELVES UNLESS THERE IS SOME EARLY PROGRESS. I ASSURED HIM THAT WE DO APPRECIATE THE GOE PROBLEM AND ARE DOING EVERYTHING TO MOVE SITUATION FORWARD.
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